

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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SICYDIUM MONTANUM, A NEW SPECIES OF GOBY  
FROM VENEZUELA.

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Dr. Ned Dearborn collected on February 1, 1908, in a mountain brook at Macuto, Caracas, Venezuela, eleven specimens of a small goby belonging to the genus *Sicydium*. The species is undescribed, and related to *S. punctatum* Perugia and *S. buscki* Evermann and Clark, but differs from both in its still larger scales, in coloration, and in other characters.

*Sicydium montanum*, new species.

*Holotype*.—A specimen 29 mm. long (to caudal), Cat. No. 9053, Field Museum of Natural History; collected by Ned Dearborn in a mountain brook at Macuto, Caracas, Venezuela (February 1, 1908). *Paratypes*.—Ten specimens taken with the holotype, 21 to 28 mm. long.

Dorsal rays, VI-I, 10; anal, I, 9 (9 or 10).

Scales comparatively large, about 48 (to 46) in a median series from upper edge of pectoral to end of last vertebra. Each scale deeply sculptured over the greater portion of its surface by long basal radii, but bearing a few strong hastate spines in a single series near its posterior margin. Scales obsolescent above pectoral fins and on nape, absent from belly.

Body slender, scarcely compressed anteriorly; greatest depth, 5.4 (to about 7.0) in body; depth of caudal peduncle, 1.6 in its length from end of anal base, 2.3 (to 2.5) in head.

Head blunt, and a little depressed, flattened above; its length, 4.25 (4.0 to 4.5). Eye placed high, its upper edge entering the profile of the head; its length, about 4.0 in head; interorbital a little narrower than eye. Snout blunt, overhanging the inferior mouth, its length 2.8 in head (shorter in young, in which it is about as long as the eye, and contained about 4.0 times in the head. Upper jaw, 2.5 in head, extending horizontally backward slightly beyond the vertical from middle of pupil (mouth smaller in young). Premaxillary teeth brownish, set comb-like in a single series along a wide arch. Mandible included; its teeth entirely pale, fewer,

larger and less regularly arranged than those of the upper jaw. Gill-slit about as wide as gape.

Spinous dorsal rather high, the second and third spines longest, 1.35 (1.25 to 1.7) in head, equal to length of anal base or to length of pectoral fin; interdorsal space about as long as eye; second dorsal originating before vertical from anus, its height about 2.0 in head. Caudal fin rounded, as long as head. Length of pelvic disc, 1.7.

Color pattern rather sharply defined; six cross bars or blotches, extending downward across middle of sides, present between middle of spinous dorsal and caudal base, all more or less fused medially to form a longitudinal streak. Three narrow and irregular bars diverging downward on each side from the nape. Sides of head and snout darkened; under surface of head not punctate. Spines of first dorsal dark; second dorsal fin conspicuously spotted or blotched with dark; the dark spot on base of caudal widely fused with last blotch on body; anal fin with a blackish subterminal streak; pectoral fins with basal mottling; pelvics unmarked; all of the fins more or less dusky.

In some specimens the bars are more sharply distinct than in the type, while in others the longitudinal dark band, formed by the fusing of the bars along the middle of the sides, is more conspicuous, and is continued forward around the snout. In some paratypes the bars diverge upward to enclose a light area between the two arms of a V-shaped mark, and the bars before the spinous dorsal are divided to form five or six zebra-like markings.